



Steppingstone Newsletter



May, 2025

Highlights



Quilts For Sale (details on page 4)

Sunday, April 27 **-and-** Wednesday, April 30



Nordic Walking BEGINS

Tuesday, April 29 (7:00-8:00pm, details on page 4)



Spring Church Clean-up Day

Saturday, May 3 (9:00am-12noon, details on page 4)



Progressive Dinner

Saturday, May 3 (5:00pm, details on page 5)



All Music Sunday & Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 11 (9:30am)



KRM Reception

Sunday, May 18 (10:30am, details on page 6)

CHURCH MATTERS

Church Council Update

- ◆ Council approved spending up to \$4,950 to purchase railing and railing supports to complete the handrail at the north entrance to the building. Most of the railing will be supported on the curved wall leading up to the doorway. The last segment from the wall to the end of the sidewalk will be supported on posts.
- ◆ The property committee is looking into improving the ceiling lighting in the hallway from our north entrance to the library.
- ◆ Council discussed our recent success with Redeemer at sharing Wednesday Lenten services. Our next sharing opportunities will be Good Friday worship, Sleep In Heavenly Peace, and the Progressive Dinner.
- ◆ A reception with KRM is to be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 18th.
- ◆ We are planning a major event at our church for Manitou Days on Sunday, June 29th. The event will have a "Pet and People Appreciation" theme with representation from local businesses (TBD). Ideas include pet grooming, pet training, pet walking, pet rescue, etc. Manitou Day organizers are pleased to help promote our event, given that we will be representing a neighborhood in the southern part of the city.
- ◆ The meeting closed with a discussion about how future meetings can be reduced in length. Council will test some ideas at its May meeting.

APPRECIATION

Old Pond Coins... Thank you to Karen Smith for cleaning the very corroded coins (pictured right) from our memorial pond and exchanging it at the bank. \$13.75 will be added to our General Memorial Fund.



Adult Forum... Thank you to our guest speaker, LPN Celia Vaerst, who spoke to us on "Taking Medications" on Sunday, April 6 and to all who attended. (Pictured below.)

Beautifying the church... Thank you to Jill Sandvik and Karen Smith for all the work they've been doing around the church—changing out narthex light bulbs, new shades on lamps, spraying cushions with fabric protector, touching up wood, organizing storage areas, etc. We appreciate all their hard work!



Photo: Quilting to Live Jazz Band!

CHURCH MATTERS

It's time for our *new directory!*

*Technology has
changed the way
we can view
directories!*



Our Church Family Album will
not be complete without you!
Please sign up today!

Photography Appointment

Date: _____ Day: _____ Time: _____

New Church Photo Directory

It's Time for a New Pictorial Directory!
We need YOU to make our church
directory complete! Our directory
brings us together to develop new

relationships, connect with our own families and friends, and reconnect with those we haven't
seen in a while. Join us and be a part of what God is doing in our church!

SIGN UP at Welcome Desk on weekends -or- online during the week!

Schedule Your Photography Appointment

Photo Dates: Thursday (2:00-8:30pm), Friday (2:00-8:30pm),
and Saturday (10:00am-4:00pm), **June 12, 13, and 14.**

Schedule your photography appointment online! Just scan the **QR code to the right** -or- go to www.ucdir.com and click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button. Enter **mn565** in the "Church Code" field. Enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field. Online signup is not available on weekends so that we can have **paper sign-up at church Saturdays and Sundays.** The schedules will fill up quickly, so sign up now to get the time that works best for you!



Universal Professional Portraiture Provides

You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options,
and have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Plus, you get a **FREE DIRECTORY** and a **FREE 8x10** portrait just for being photographed.

Prepare for your Professional Photography Session:



Formal

Semi-Formal

Casual

Getting Ready

CLOTHING: Solid colors work best and will make you look thinner.

HAIR: Be yourself, avoid changing your hairstyle or cutting your hair right before your session.

JEWELRY: If you have jewelry that has special meaning to you, wear it!

MAKE-UP: Apply make-up as you would normally for an evening out. Pay special attention to your eyes: they're the focal point in a portrait!

GLASSES: If you wear eye glasses all the time, you'll want to wear them in your portraits. Don't worry, we'll take care of any glare.

What Can I Bring?

- ◆ You may invite extended family members for a **multi-generational photo**.
- ◆ **Bring your pets**, we know they are an important part of the family! Please check with your church.
- ◆ **Bring props** that express you and your family's personality, e.g., **instruments, sports equipment, and hobby items.**

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

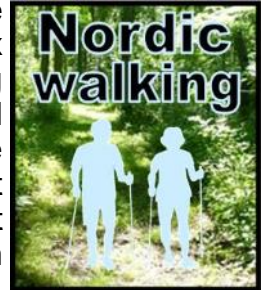
Deep Listening Campaign (4/27)

St. Stephen is partnering with the nonprofit organization ISIAH (a Minnesota-based, non-partisan coalition of faith communities) for their Deep Listening Campaign. We are living in a time where we and those we know and love face a variety of challenges. In this new campaign, ISIAH hopes to name and honor the concerns that people are grappling with, so that we need not face these challenges alone. The first step in this process is a survey, which can be filled out by hand on paper or you can visit a website to fill it out online. Pastor James and Pastor Juli will be hosting a forum on this survey in the Library at 10:30am on Sunday, April 27. After the surveys have been collected, we will host another forum to share the results and discuss next steps. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor James or Pastor Juli.

(11:30am). RSVP (required) on Sunday before event by contacting Judee Bramscher at 651-269-6122. On April 29, we are meeting at Jimmy's (1132 Co Rd E East, Vadnais Heights). RSVP by 4/27. On May 27th, we meet at the Outback Steak House (1770 Beam Ave., Maplewood). RSVP by 5/25.

Nordic Walking Club

Please sign up on the Welcome Desk in the narthex if you are interested in joining our Nordic Walking club. All ages welcome. Dogs are welcome too. We meet Tuesdays (7:00-8:00pm) at different locations. Season dates: April 29 - August 26. Flyers (with schedule and directions) are available on the Welcome Desk.



Quilts on Display & For Sale (4/27 & 4/30)



Quilts will be on display in the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, April 27 and on Wednesday, April 30. They will be offered for sale before and after worship services. This sale is a fundraiser which keeps this ministry going. Unsold quilts will be donated to local shelters just in time for Mother's Day.

Spring Church Clean-up Day (5/3)



It is time to clean up from winter's effects on our grounds. Our annual Spring Church Clean-up Day will be Saturday, May 3 (9:00am-12noon). **Please** come and help Diane & Paul Swanson in sprucing up the church (inside and outside) and help us avoid contracting this work to an outside company. Bring a rake and a friend. Many hands make light work! **Tasks include:** removing trash/debris from grounds and under bushes, sweeping the parking lot, raking lawn on west side of building, dusting woodwork, cleaning counters and tables, dusting pews, cleaning windows and screens.

Christian Single Lunch Bunch (4/29 & 5/27)

Please feel free to join our group for lunch on the last Tuesday of each month



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Progressive Dinner (5/3)

Join us in the Narthex on Saturday, May 3, (5:00pm), for tasty appetizers. We then continue our evening of great food and wonderful company as we "progress" to dinner and dessert. It's a fun way to get to know people from St. Stephen and Redeemer (this is a shared ministry event). Although mostly couples attend, singles are welcome. Contact Pam Prokosch (651-253-0537) to sign up.

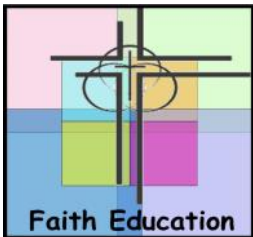


Synod Assembly (5/16-17)



The Saint Paul Area Synod's 2025 Synod Assembly will be held May 16-17 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Under the theme "Called to Invite," this year's Synod Assembly will explore what it means for each one of us to be a witness to life in Christ. During the assembly we will worship together, consider resolutions, elect people to leadership roles and experience being part of a wider church. We look forward to hearing feedback from several members from St. Stephen who will be attending this year.

Faith Ed – Sunday & Wednesday School - FINAL



For children (preschool thru grade 4): Sunday School's final session is on May 4 (9:45-10:30am), starting up again in the fall on September 21. Wednesday School's final session is on May 14 (6:00-6:45pm), beginning again on September 17.

Fellowship Group (ONGOING)

All are invited to gather (10:30am) in the narthex on Wednesdays to share news, lift each other up with encouragement, and simply just visit! This is an informal group; walk-ins are welcome. Contact Judee Bramscher (651-269-6122) with any questions.



Mother's Day & All Music Sunday (5/11)

Get the whole family together to celebrate Mother's Day and to enjoy a very musical worship service on Sunday, May 11th (9:30am).



Choir Schedule

The Senior Choir will be singing on Mother's Day/All Music Sunday, May 11. We resume practices on Wednesday, September 3 (7:00-8:00pm). If you are interested in joining the choir in the fall, please contact Kari at ballatahosmer@gmail.com

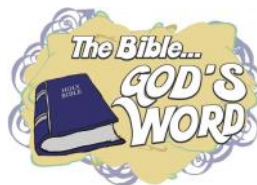


Retiree's Breakfast ON BREAK

Due to lack of attendees, we are taking a break to determine if we will discontinue this group. Please contact Judee Bramscher with questions (651-269-6122).

God's Word – Bible Discussion Group

God's Word Bible discussion group, led by Phyllis Ballata meets in the library on Thursdays (1:00-2:00pm).



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Faith Ed—Pre-Confirmation FINAL (5/14)

For youth (grades 3-6), Pre-Confirmation is at St. Stephen (5:30-6:15pm). This is the FINAL class until fall. We meet again on Wednesday, September 17 at St. Stephen.

Youth Group – FINAL (5/14)

For youth (grades 7-12), our final gathering is on May 14 (7:00-8:00pm) at Redeemer. We begin again in the fall on Wednesday, September 24.

Youth Fundraiser Event (5/17)

The Youth Fundraiser, including food, trivia, and prizes, is happening on Saturday, May 17



(6:00-8:00pm). Watch for ticket sales in the narthex (\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door).

For more information, contact Melissa at mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org

Please Attend a Reception for KRM (5/18)



Kingdom Restoration Ministries (KRM) is one of the two churches that use our space for their Sunday services, in KRM's case starting at 2 pm.

KRM has an interesting history and mission that they would like to share with us and to serve that purpose—and to strengthen our relationship as followers of Christ—we are scheduling a reception with KRM's members in the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 18th, immediately after our worship service. **Save the date.** We hope everyone can stay after worship for this important event.

Monthly Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (5/19)

Fleshpots of Egypt (Lutherland's Most Acclaimed Bluegrass Band) leads this hymn sing (7:00-9:00pm) on the **THIRD** Monday of every month at Dubliner Pub (2162 University Ave., St. Paul, 55114) at University and Vandalia. Get there early (6:30pm) to get a table. Beer and pizza available and/or bring your own snacks. More info at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/PKH9NJufre7PSWsk/?mibextid=JRoKGi>

Faith Ed—Confirmation – FINAL (5/21)

For youth (grades 7 thru 8), Confirmation is at Redeemer (6:30-8:00pm). This is the FINAL class until fall. We meet again on Wednesday, September 17 at St. Stephen.

GAP Worship & Community Meal

Wednesday is a perfect time to invite family members or friends to join you at our community meal (5:15pm) and GAP (Grace & Praise) casual worship service (6:00pm) in the sanctuary. There are many people who say they would go to church if they were invited! We begin gathering outside on June 4th.



Prepare/Cook/Serve Wednesday Meals/BBQ's

We are in need of volunteers to prepare, cook, and serve (FOR 25 PEOPLE) Wednesday evening community meals. Get reimbursed for up to \$50. Mealtime is 5:15-6:00pm before our Grace & Praise (GAP) Worship Service. Choose one or as many Wednesdays as you like throughout May. Sign up in the kitchen or contact the church office at 651-777-1107 or office@ststephenwbl.org to get onto the schedule.

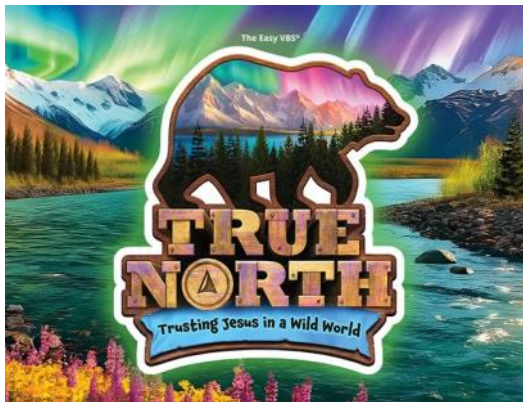


HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Memorial Day Church Office Closed (5/26)

The church office is closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day (honoring those who sacrificed their lives while serving in the U.S. military).

Office hours are Monday thru Thursday (9:00am - 3:00pm) and Friday (9:00am - 12noon).



Register NOW for VBS!

Please contact Melissa or look for online registration information in upcoming Weekly Updates. VBS will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church this year (June 23-27).

mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org

Adults Needed for Vacation Bible School

We are anticipating a large turnout for Vacation Bible School this year (June 23-27) and we cannot run this program without you! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Melissa or look in upcoming e-blasts for a link or QR code and link to our online sign-up.

mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org



Save the Date!

We will be holding a major event here on **Sunday, June 29** (during Manitou Days).

We will hear from local businesses about pet grooming, training, walking, and rescue.



Pilot Program Needs Volunteers to Attract Families with Children

Many of you know that Sue Lemon serves on the Church Council as our liaison for our Children & Families Ministry. She is developing a pilot program in an attempt to attract families with children to the church. The program includes three events (Parent's Night Out, Mom's Morning Out, and a Children's Christmas Celebration). They would include food, games, movies, music, and fun for FREE! To pay for these events an Indoor Garage Sale would be held to raise funds. The event dates are as follows:

- ◆ **Indoor Garage Sale** (rain or shine)
Saturday, Sept. 20 (10:00am-1:00pm)
- ◆ **Parent's Night Out**
Friday, Oct. 17 (5:00-8:00pm)
- ◆ **Mom's Morning Out**
Saturday, Nov. 15 (10:00am-1:00pm)
- ◆ **Children's Christmas Celebration**
Saturday, Dec. 20 (10:00am-1:00pm)

All of the events would be on the third weekend of each month. The children would be divided into three groups.

- ⇒ Ages 2 and 3 (no infants or children under 2)
- ⇒ Ages 4, 5, and 6
- ⇒ Ages 7, 8, and 9

In order to implement this pilot program, we would need at least five (5) volunteers for each event. Once we know we have volunteers in place, we can move forward. If you would be willing to participate or have questions, please contact Sue Lemon at 651-429-5861.

APPRECIATION

Lenten Lunches... Thank you to Kathy & Milt Anderson for preparing, serving, and cleaning up for all the lunches during Lent. (Pictured: Donna Rechtzigel on her birthday.)

From our Neighbor... *Hello Church Family of St. Stephen, Thank you so much for thinking of me. It's very kind of you to send a prayer shawl. I am looking forward to improving each day, but I know it will take awhile—the doctors say. God is working! Thank you for caring, Ruby Moskop.*

From Florence Bye... *Thank you for the congregational prayers for my daughter JoAnne Schmidt. She was desperately ill with mold toxicity. It took some convincing, but she moved and began a special diet. She is now in care of doctors who are doing further diagnostic tests. Also, thank you for your visit and bringing the communion service to my home. I have enjoyed the services online each Sunday. I do have a ride available but choose to be home as I approach my 100th year on January 20, 2026.*



GENERAL INFORMATION

In This Issue

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The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **June** issue, please send them to office@ststephenwbl.org by Sat., May 10. Newsletters are also available in information racks near both entrances or via email.

Please let us know if you have a change of address so that we can update our mailing list.

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-Noon

St Stephen Lutheran Church
1965 East County Rd E
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

What's Happening

Sundays

Worship (with band, organ, or piano)
& Faith Ed **9:30am IN-PERSON**
(Services are live-streamed and online)

Wednesdays

Grace & Praise (GAP) Worship
& Faith Ed **6:00pm IN-PERSON**
(Community Meal at 5:15pm, \$5/pp)

- 4/27 Quilts on Display and For Sale (Sun/9:00-11:00am)
- 4/27 Deep Listening Survey (10:30am)
- 4/29 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 4/29 Nordic Walking (Tues/7:00-8:00pm) **BEGINS**
- 4/30 Quilts on Display and For Sale (Wed/5:00-7:00pm)
- 5/2 Kathy Schleusner Piano Recital (Fri/6:30pm)
- 5/3 Spring Church Cleanup Day (Sat/9:00am-12noon)
- 5/3 Progressive Dinner (Sat/5:00pm)
- 5/4 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 5/4 Faith Ed: Sunday School (9:45-10:30am) **FINAL**
- 5/7 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 5/8 Retiree's Breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am) **ON BREAK**
- 5/8 Worship & Music Meeting (Thurs/6:00-7:00pm)
- 5/10 Content Deadline for June Steppingstone (Sat)
- 5/11 Choir Rehearsal (Sun/8:45am) **FINAL**
- 5/11 Mother's Day / All Music Sunday (9:30am)
- 5/12 Church Council Meeting (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 5/14 Faith Ed: Pre-Confirmation (Wed/5:30-6:15pm) **FINAL**
- 5/14 Faith Ed: Wednesday School (6:00-6:45pm) **FINAL**
- 5/14 Faith Ed: Youth Group at Redeemer (7:00-7:45pm) **FINAL**
- 5/16 Synod Assembly at St. Andrews (Fri) *through Sat, May 17*
- 5/17 Youth Fundraiser Event (Sat/6:00-8:00pm)
- 5/18 KRM Reception (Sun/10:30am)
- 5/19 Monthly Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 5/21 Faith Ed: Confirmation at Redeemer (Wed/6:30-8:00pm) **FINAL**
- 5/26 Memorial Day (Mon) Church office **CLOSED**
- 5/27 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 6/4 Community BBQ (Wed/5:15pm) **BEGINS**
- 6/4 Summer GAP Worship (Wed/6:00pm) **BEGINS**